



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul Helliker
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 11, 2004

WHS 04-04

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: IMPROVED QUALITY AND TIMELINESS OF ILLNESS INVESTIGATIONS

On July 26, 2004 the Worker Health and Safety Branch (WHS) received the very last investigative report for cases assigned in 2003. County agricultural commissioners met the 120-day target for completion of investigations in approximately 80% of the cases. The timeliness of reporting is the best we have ever experienced in the history of the surveillance program. Your outstanding work in this area has a direct impact on our ability to maintain a quality program and meet our deadlines. Thank you for making improvements in this area.

The quality of investigations also continues to improve. During the 1980s, we consistently had more than one hundred cases a year that we could not classify because of insufficient information in the investigative report. We are aware that in a lot of these cases the investigators attempted to obtain the information, but it was unavailable for various reasons. During the 1990s, the number of cases that could not be classified gradually came down but remained in double digits. We reached single digits for the first time in 2002 (five cases with insufficient information in the investigative report), and in 2003 we received only two.

WHS appreciates your effort to complete quality investigations in a timely manner. Thank you for a job well done and keep up the good work!

If you have any questions about the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program, please contact Sue Edmiston at (916) 445-4278, or by e-mail at sedmiston@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

[original signed by C. Andrews]

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

cc: Mr. Daniel J. Merkley, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison
Ms. Sue Edmiston, Agriculture Program Specialist III, WHS

